

In the Claims

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings.

1.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A compression molding composition for use in compression molding an article, said composition comprising:

an inorganic fiber, an inorganic binder, and a carrier solvent, wherein at least a portion of the inorganic binder is suspended in at least a portion of the carrier solvent;

wherein the composition comprises less than about 25 % by wt. inorganic fiber in an amount sufficient to be bound by the inorganic binder during the compression molding to form the article;

wherein the composition comprises in the range of about 15 to 35 % by wt. inorganic binder;

wherein the composition comprises in the range of about 15 to 45 % by wt. carrier solvent; and

wherein the composition comprises in the range of about 0 to 70 % by wt. additional solid additives.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 30, wherein the additional additives include an inorganic filler, and the inorganic filler is in the range of 15 to 70 % by weight of the total composition.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 30, wherein the additional additives include an organic polymer, and the organic polymer is in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 % by weight of the total composition.

34. (Original) The composition of claim 33, wherein the organic polymer is an acrylic polymer.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 33, wherein the organic polymer acts as a molding thickener to help the composition hold shape when it is being molded.

36. (Original) The composition of claim 30, wherein the carrier solvent is water.

37. (Original) The composition of claim 36, wherein the composition has a moisture content in the range of 20 to 35% by weight of the total composition.

38. (Original) The composition of claim 37, wherein the composition has a moisture content 23 to 30% by weight of the total composition.

39. (Original) The composition of claim 38, wherein the composition has a moisture content in the range of 25 to 27% by weight of the total composition.

40. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 30, wherein the inorganic binder is colloidal silica.

41. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein the composition is less than about 10 % by wt. inorganic fiber.

42. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 41, wherein the composition is less than about 5 % by wt. inorganic fiber.

43. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein the composition is in the range of about 20 to 30 % by wt. inorganic binder.

44. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein the composition is in the range of about 20 to 40 % by wt. carrier solvent.

45. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 44, wherein the composition is in the range of about 25 to 35 % by wt. carrier solvent.